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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Alexandria, Virginia
September 1, 2005

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces that Osmin Heriberto Alfaro-Fuentes, also known as "Buso," an MS-13 gang member, pleaded guilty today to murder in aid of racketeering, before United States District Judge T. S. Ellis, III. Sentencing is scheduled for December 9, 2005.

The guilty plea stems from a shooting in Herndon, Virginia, on the night of May 16, 2004. According to the Statement of Facts signed by Alfaro-Fuentes, he and another MS-13 gang member, Alirio Reyes, also known as "Seco," confronted two juveniles on Park Avenue in Herndon, Virginia, to determine if they were rival gang members. Alfaro-Fuentes stated that he questioned the juveniles. When the juvenile male indicated that he was a member of the rival 18th Street gang, Reyes shot the two juveniles, killing the 17-year-old male juvenile and seriously injuring the 16-year-old female juvenile, according to Alfaro-Fuentes. The juvenile victims did not know Reyes or Alfaro-Fuentes. Alfaro-Fuentes further admitted that after the shooting, Reyes and he fled Virginia and traveled to Los Angeles, California, where they were arrested on June 18 by members of the United States Marshals Fugitive Task Force in Los Angeles.

Alfaro admitted that he participated in the murder due to his membership in and loyalty to MS-13. He also admitted that he knew MS-13 gang members were required to attack rival gang members, and that MS-13 gang members who kill rival gang members increase their status in the gang.

Alfaro's guilty plea comes as part of the first federal prosecution in the Eastern District of Virginia of MS-13 gang members using the federal racketeering criminal statutes. It is also part of the district's anti-gang initiative, which coordinates federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecuting agencies efforts to combat gang crime.

Mr. McNulty stated: "The defendant has been convicted of a malicious and violent crime and faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life behind bars. His conviction shows the true cost and consequences of taking part in violent, criminal gang activity."

Mr. McNulty praised the work of the Herndon Police Department; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force; the United States Marshals Service Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force; and the Fairfax County Police Department.

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